257
372

Fig. 1. Preparation of Sheep Fly Maggot Apparatus. a. Sheep Bait. b. a. f. Sheep Bait. c. Flies and Bait. d. Sheep Bait. e. Fly Bait. f. Fly Trap.

J. Lasoe E-1 (1926-27) 1053 FTS Tanala FTS



## PREPARATION OF FOOD

### FIRE MAKING

372 The Tanala make fire by the following three methods: the saw, the drill in two forms, and flint and steel. According to native traditions the saw, called *fotsiky*, is the oldest and was the only method employed by the aborigines of the Tanala country. At the present time it is rarely used and seems to be unknown to the other tribes of Madagascar. The apparatus is made from very dry bamboo, a rounded section being employed as the bed and a straight, flat piece as the saw. A shallow transverse groove is cut in the round side of the bed, without piercing its inner surface. The operator squats on the ground holding the bed in front of and parallel to his body with his feet. The saw is grasped by both ends and its edge inserted in the groove. It is then drawn rapidly back and forth, at right angles to the body (Fig. 4, g). Charred cotton, as tinder, is placed under and around the bed. The spark may be caught either in the hollow under the bed, when the saw pierces its lower surface, or at the side when the glowing dust runs down. Operators seemed to have a good deal of difficulty in catching the spark, but this was probably due to lack of familiarity with the apparatus. The method is fairly rapid, the saw beginning to smoke in about thirty seconds.

The simpler form of fire drill (Fig. 4, h) has a rectangular bed about ¾ inch wide by ½ inch thick and 1 foot to 18 inches long. A slight depression is cut in the upper surface with a notch or groove running from it to the edge. The drill is about 14 inches long and ½ inch in diameter. It is made of hard wood while the bed is of soft wood. The operator squats, holding the bed with his feet or having it held by an assistant. He inserts the point of the drill in the depression in the bed and twirls the shaft rapidly between his palms. He begins near the top of the drill and, as he twirls, brings his hands down, then lifts them to the top again. Considerable pressure is exerted. Cotton tinder is piled beside the bed against the notch. Wood dust ignited by the friction is forced out through the notch into the tinder. Fire is made in from forty seconds to a minute. This method is used by all the Madagascar tribes with only slight variations.

Pump drills are also used for fire making, but are much rarer than the plain drills. The bed is like that just described. The drill shaft is made from soft wood with a hard wood head attached. The whorl is also of wood, in the shape of a figure eight. The pumping stick is usually 8 inches to 1 foot long. The cord attached to it

1: Linton 8-5 (1926-27) 1933 FYS Tanala FYS



passes over a notch in the tip of the drill shaft (Fig. 5, f). In fire making, one man holds the bed while another pumps the drill up and down with both hands. No pressure is applied to the upper end of the drill shaft. The time required to produce a spark is about the same as with the ordinary drill. Pump fire drills are also used by the Sihanaka and probably by other tribes, but they are nowhere common. 372

At the present time flint and steel is by far the commonest fire making appliance throughout Madagascar. The Tanala say that the historic clans, as distinct from the aborigines, have always used it. The striker is shaped somewhat like an adze blade, the narrow upper end being bent down over the back to form a grip (Fig. 4, d1). A variety of stones is used: flint, chalcedony, jasper and even quartz crystal. The tinder is made from charred cotton or cotton cloth. It is carried in the tip of a horn, the open end being provided with a tight stopper of gourd shell (Fig. 4, d3). The entire outfit is usually carried in a small box of wood or rawhide, in a horn, or in a hollow hide belt. Tinder horns and belts are used by all the Madagascar tribes, but the wooden tinder boxes appear to be limited to the Tanala. Nearly all of them are manufactured by the Zafimaniry division, which trades them to the neighboring clans. At least 80 per cent of the boxes conform to a single pattern (Fig. 5, b). The body has a long oval section, with flat, squarely cut ends. It is hollowed from a single block of rather soft, light colored wood which exhibits a beautiful curling grain. The bottom, in the form of a long pointed oval, is made separately and inset, being held in place by pins of wood, bone or horn. It is usually of red wood. The cover is made from a moderately hard red wood and fits closely over a sort of sleeve or projection, so that the joint is almost watertight. Its outer surface is flush with the body. It is surmounted by a comb, the width of the flat ends of the box, which is notched along the upper edge. Holes are pierced horizontally through the ends of the body a short distance below the lid and through the base of the comb near either end. A long cord passing through these holds the cover on and also serves for suspension. In a second and much rarer type one side of the box is flat and the other convex (Fig. 5, c). The lid may have a low comb along the flat side, but usually has a low flange running across the flat side and extending forward for a short distance on the curved side, at either end. A single double box of this type was collected and a modification in which the body of the box was crescent shaped in section was seen. In a third type, which 372 415 [430]

372 415 [531] is extremely rare, the body of the box is flat on one side and convex on the other and tapers to a point at the bottom. Tinder boxes are rarely if ever carved, but those of the first type are sometimes decorated with inset studs of metal or bone. They are always finely finished and with use and repeated oiling acquire a high polish. When traveling they are worn hanging on the breast or, rarely, at the belt.

281 415 Rawhide tinder boxes are rarely used by the northern Tanala, only two examples having been seen. They are made from long, rectangular strips of hide with the hair removed. While the hide is still soft, two-thirds of the strip is folded back upon itself and sewn together along the edges with a thong, forming a pouch. The remaining third is then bent down over this as a cover. Slits are cut in the rear of the pouch, or strips are sewn on, so that it can be strung [531] on the belt. The flap is usually decorated with tooled designs (Fig. 5, a). This type seems to be peculiar to the Tanala, but hide tinder boxes of a different form are used by the Bara and other southern tribes.

321 415 The horn tinder boxes are made from sections of cow horn 8 to 18 inches long. The edges of the open end are cut off smoothly except at the inside of the horn's curve, where a rectangular projection about 1 inch wide and ½ inch to 1 inch long is left. An oval piece of wood, which has on one side a projection corresponding to that on the horn, is fitted into the opening and fastened solidly with wooden or horn pins. In the center of this there is an oval opening about 1 inch in diameter which is closed by a close fitting cork or stopper. This stopper is attached to the projection on the side of the horn by a short piece of cord. Heavier cords are attached to the horn at both ends so that the whole can be worn as a belt, the curve of the horn fitting against the wearer's side. The cords [531] are of braided raffia (Fig. 5, e). Such boxes are rarely decorated but in one specimen the end of the horn has been cut into a series of knobs. Similar boxes are used by practically all the Madagascar tribes.

281 415 The hollow belts are made from the skin of a cow's tail drawn off whole. The skin is dried and flattened, the hair being left on. The smaller end is sewn up and a loop of hide attached. The larger end is pierced near either side. A wide thong is split for several inches and the ends of the split portion passed through the holes in the belt and fastened to either end of a flat strip of bamboo. The other end of this thong and the loop sewn to the smaller end of the

Fig 3. Timber frame, blue metal and flooring forks. a. Bramble Timber Saw; b, c, Wooden Timber Screws; d, Bolt Timber Saw; e, Bow Timber Saw; f, Pulley Pin Bolt; g, Main Blades; h, i, Flooring Forks.